

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 06064 161507Z

ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO DEPT OF TREASURY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4018

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, AFDB

SUBJECT: AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (AFDF): U.S. REPRESENTATION

1. AFTER TALKS WITH JOHN GAASERUD, WHO ATTENDED THE AFDF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 6 IN CAPACITY OF ALTERNATE DIRECTOR, AND WITH MATTHEW HENNESEY, WHO HAS BEEN ACTING AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, I GATHER THAT THE LEVEL OF U.S. REPRESENTATION AT THE AFDF IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. ALTHOUGH THIS IS ESSENTIALLY A DECISION FOR THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, I WOULD WHISH TO HAVE MY OWN VIEWS ON RECORD, AND IN PARTICULAR TO EXPRESS MY HIGH OPINION OF THE VERY FINE PERFORMANCE THUS FAR RENDERED BY MATT HENNESEY.

2. IT APPEARS THAT UNTIL THE NEXT AFDF REPLENISHMENT, THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO BE PART OF THE UK-US-YUGOSLAV CONSTITUENCY WITH THE DIRECTORSHIP HELD BY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HERE. IF THIS IS INDEED THE CASE, I BELIEVE THE POSITION OF U.S. REPRESENTATION PROBABLY DOES NOT WARRANT A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL. UNDER PRESIDENT FORDWOR'S LEADERSHIP, THE FUND IS GROWING IN SIZE AND IMPORTANCE. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE

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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 06064 161507Z

FUND'S MANAGEMENT AND WITH OTHER DIRECTORS, AND CAN MAKE A USEFUL INPUT INTO U.S. ASSESSMENTS OF PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED BY BOTH THE FUND AND THE BANK. NEVERTHELESS, MOST REPRESENTATIVES AT THE AFDF HAVE OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD BE A PERSON OF A VERY CONSIDERABLE ABILITY BUT NEED NOT BE OF SENIOR RANK.

3. HENNESEY HAS BEEN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE AND SHOWN COMMENDABLE INITIATIVE SINCE HIS ARRIVAL ON TDY IN JANUARY AND IS ALREADY A VALUED MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY'S COUNTRY TEAM. HE IS ON EXCELLENT TERMS WITH FORDWOR AND OTHER MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS, AND WITH AMBASSADOR WRIGHT AND OTHER DIRECTORS. HE HAS KEPT US AND WASHINGTON CLOSELY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS, AND WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL COMPLIMENTS OF HIS TACTFUL BUT EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIONS - AS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN GETTING MANAGEMENT'S AGREEMENT TO PRESENT LOAN PROPOSALS IN AMPLE TIME FOR DIRECTORS' CONSIDERATION. IN A CONVERSATION WITH DR. FORDWOR THIS MORNING DEVOTED TO OTHER SUBJECTS, FORDWOR SINGLED OUT HENNESEY FOR SPECIAL PRAISE AND COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE ROLE OF THE US-US-YUGOSLAV CONSTITUENCY HAD BEEN GREATLY STRENGTHENED BY HENNESEY'S PARTICIPATION.

4. I UNDERSTAND MATT HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN REMAINING IN THIS POSITION FOR A REGULAR TOUR OR UNTIL THE NATURE OF U.S. REPRESENTATION CHANGES. HIS COLLEAGUES AT THE FUND AND IN THE EMBASSY AND I PERSONALLY WOULD BE MOST GRATIFIED WERE HE TO STAY ON.
STEARNS

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